years and a moratorium of 1 year to small tea growers and bought leaf factories, which is extended on a case to case basis for large tea growers. The STTL also provides for working capital upto Rs. 2 lakhs at a rate not exceeding 9% to small growers. Import duty on cetain items of machinery used to improve productivity and quality of tea, including value addition, has been reduced to an all inclusive rate of 5%. The Tea Board also provides subsidy for replantation and rejuvenation of old tea bushes and for quality upgradation of factories. The Government is also working out a special financial package for tea industry with special emphasis on replantation and rejuvenation of old tea bushes.

Claim of patenting Baingan by American firm

2985. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report in the media to the effect that an American firm has laid claim to patenting Baingan as a Hi Bush Eggplant by hybridizing it with Indian Crop;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the question of challenging this ; and if so, the decision taken in the matter; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Applicability of the Patent law being restricted to the patent granting country, patents granted out of India have no applicability in India. Patent being a private right is contested and defended by affected parties in accordance with the patent law of the country concerned.

Grants to Uttar Pradesh under ASIDE

†2986. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that less grant has been given to Uttar Pradesh as compared to other States under ASIDE Scheme in the year 2004-05;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.